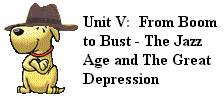
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**Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Great Depression**

Goals of the New Deal:

1. Relief
2. Recovery
3. Reform

Methods of Communicating the New Deal:

1. Eleanor Roosevelt (FDR’s legs – traveled U.S. talking and listening to the people)
2. Fireside Chats (30 “folksy” speeches given over the radio between 1933 and 1944)

**FDR + Democrat Majority in Congress = “The First Hundred Days”**

(The first major reforms of the New Deal take place)

1. Emergency Banking Act (March 1933): Government ordered shutdown to “inspect” banks.

* Banks that were insolvent were closed and merged with “safe” banks. (4,000 closed)
* Banks that could survive were reorganized and placed under government supervision.
* Government ordered “Bank Holiday” lasted four days.

1. 21st Amendment (March 1933): Ended federal enforcement of prohibition.

* Saves money on enforcement of Volstead Act, brings in additional revenue at the state and federal level, reign in organized crime

1. CCC (created March 1933): **C**ivilian **C**onservation **C**orps

* Work relief program that sent mostly young, unemployed men to work on conservation projects in rural areas for about $1 per day.
* Camps run by different government agencies (most famously the National Park Service and the Bureau of Forestry) to build things for the “common good”
* 3 million participated in program (six-month “tour” with options to “re-enlist”)

1. Executive Order 6102 (April 1933): Gold no longer backed U.S. currency

* People ordered to exchange gold for paper currency / more money available for printing which made more available for use

1. AAA (created May 1933): **A**gricultural **A**djustment **A**dministration

* Organized production (corn, cotton, diary products, hogs, rice, tobacco, wheat) and paid farmers to not grow crops.
* Declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, replacement version has farmers grow crops for the purpose of enriching the soil (still in place today).

1. FERA (created May 1933): **F**ederal **E**mergency **R**ecovery **A**dministration

* $3.1 billion to states and localities for local work projects and welfare programs
* Provided “seed” money to start projects, left spending up to local level
* Created for unskilled workers, replaced by the WPA in 1935 (see #13) after it was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court

1. TVA (created May 1933): **T**ennessee **V**alley **A**uthority

* Built and ran a series of 29 dams built on the Tennessee River
* Provided flood control and electrification in parts of seven states

1. PWA (created June 1933): **P**ublic **W**orks **A**dministration

* $3.3 billion for construction of (federal) public works to provide skilled employment, stabilize purchasing power, improve public welfare, and contribute to a revival of American industry
* Examples: dams, roads, hospitals, bridges, schools, public buildings

1. NRA (June 1933): **N**ational **R**ecovery **A**dministration

* “Voluntary” measure to standardize work sectors and reduce competition between businesses that hurt labor (Blue Eagle Campaign)
* Businesses not displaying the Blue Eagle were often boycotted
* Minimum wage 20-40 cents an hour / Max workweek 40 hours
* Declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court

1. FDIC (created June 1933): **F**ederal **D**eposit **I**nsurance **C**orporation

* Watches over money in banks and insures the deposits in case of failure
* Originally protected up to $2,500 (now insures up to $250,000)

# **Post “Hundred Day” Programs = “Second New Deal”**

1. SEC (June 1934): **S**ecurities & **E**xchange **C**ommission
   * Watches over stock market and prevents trading that hurts the market
2. FHA (June 1934): **F**ederal **H**ousing **A**dministration
   * Insured loans made by banks and other private lenders for home building and home buying while also improving housing standards and conditions
   * Helped lead to housing boom following WWII
3. WPA (created April 1935): **W**orks **P**rogress (**P**rojects after 1939) **A**dministration
   * Replacement for FERA after it was declared unconstitutional
   * $11.4 billion for providing unskilled employment through the building of (local) public facilities, (local) infrastructure, and funding arts projects/programs.
   * The WPA built 650,000 miles of roads, 78,000 bridges, 125,000 buildings, 800 miles of airport runways, presented 225,000 concerts, and produced almost 1,475,000 pieces of art (literature, photo, paintings, etc.)
4. REA (May 1935): **R**ural **E**lectrification **A**dministration
   * Connected rural America to the power (and phone) network (from 10% to 90% in ten years) because it wasn’t profitable for private business to do it alone (created competition which lowered rates and increased service).
5. National Labor Relations Act (July 1935): Wagner Act
   * Guaranteed unions the right to exist in market place (by declaring strikes and other labor moves legal AND forcing collective bargaining to settle disputes)
   * DID NOT force both sides together (why NRA was declared unconstitutional)
   * Set minimum wage at 25 cents per hour, work week at 44 hours, child labor banned (under age 16)
6. Wealth Tax Act (August 1935): “Soak the Rich”
   * 79% on individuals worth more than $5 million dollars (John D. Rockefeller)
   * Later adjusted in 1937 to a lower rate and eliminated loopholes
7. Social Security Act (August 1935): helped those who couldn’t help themselves
   * AKA – the elderly, poor, unemployed, widows and fatherless children
   * Old-age pensions and unemployment insurance through payments made into the system by payroll taxes on current workers (women and minorities often excluded)
8. Adjusted Compensation Payment Act (January 1936): Bonus Act
   * World War I veterans get their promised bonus early (remember the Bonus March?)
   * Congress passes bill over the veto of FDR
9. Judiciary Reorganization Bill (February – July 1937): FDR’s Court packing plan
   * “Old” members of the Supreme Court (not appointed by FDR) declared FERA, NRA and AAA unconstitutional during 1935 and 1936
   * FDR proposed legislation granting the President new powers to add additional judges to all federal courts whenever there were sitting judges age 70 or older who refused to retire (allowing him to “gain control” of the judiciary branch)
   * Failed 70-20 in the Senate but no other New Deal legislation was declared unconstitutional (switch in time saved nine)
10. Servicemen’s Readjustment Act (1944): G.I. Bill
    * Veterans received low-cost mortgages, low interest loans, cash payments of tuition and living expenses for education (vocational or college)

**Assignment:**

1. For each program, write down whether the program provided **relief**, **recovery**, or **reform** to the American people.
2. How did the New Deal remake America? Explain your response using at least three of these programs as examples.
3. Why do you think the Supreme Court and Republicans in Congress opposed the New Deal from 1933 to 1936?
4. How might FDR’s actions as president reinforce the charge that he was a “benevolent dictator”? Do you agree or disagree with that assessment?
5. Most of these programs did not directly help African-Americans or women. How and why did FDR gain their support anyway in the 1936, 1940 and 1944 elections?
6. Why do you think the recovery was “hollow” – that the New Deal alone didn’t bring the country out of the Great Depression (unemployment around 15% in 1938)?
7. On the following page, draw five programs as a way “to explain them in a non-defined way”. The first box should be a title box about the New Deal.